United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• In "largest cease-fire violation" since UNTAC began operation last March, Cambodian People's Armed Forces launch series of attacks on National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea in several provinces in Cambodia, United Nations spokesman says; calls the offensive action "unacceptable".

• Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional has not completed weapons destruction by agreed 29 January deadline; is therefore not yet in compliance with obligations under Peace Accords for El Salvador, says Secretary-General.

• At meeting Friday evening, 29 January, Security Council endorses plan to send fact-finding mission to assess "deteriorating" situation in Georgia; humanitarian mission sent to Tbilisi to assess food situation in Abkhazia and south Ossetia.

• Also Friday, Security Council appeals for fuel and humanitarian assistance for Armenia and Nakhichevan area of Azerbaijan and asks parties to agree to cease-fire.

• Madeleine Korbel Albright, new Permanent Representative of United States to United Nations presents credentials to Secretary-General.

• Ukraine protests recent allegations that it supplied petroleum products to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by way of Danube, thereby violating United Nations sanctions against that Republic.

• Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls for extension of mandate of United Nations Protection Force in territory of former Yugoslavia for another 12-month period.

• Turkey regrets United Nations report of investigation of assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister saying it "played down gross negligence and heavy responsibility" of UNPROFOR.

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In the "largest cease-fire violation" since the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) began its operation on 15 March 1992, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF) has launched a series of attacks on the National Alliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) in several provinces in Cambodia over the last four days, according to a spokesman for UNTAC today.

Although no casualty figures were available so far, it was confirmed that no UNTAC personnel had been injured or killed in the attacks and that none of them were believed to be in imminent danger. The spokesman said UNTAC personnel in the field were being kept abreast of the situation and were in turn informing Headquarters of the security in their areas.

According to the spokesman, the attacks focused on two broad areas in the country -- one in the province of Battambang and another in the provinces of Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear. Cease-fire violations in the south-west district of Prek Prasap in the Kratie province and in Angkor Chum and Chi Kreng districts of Siem Reap province did not appear to be linked with the two larger areas of fighting, he said.

Although it was understood that the CPAF and the Party of the State of Cambodia were "frustrated by the current political and military situation", the spokesman said that UNTAC found CPAF's offensive actions "unacceptable".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported to the Security Council that the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLNL) has not completed the destruction of its weapons by the agreed 29 January deadline, and that it was therefore not yet in compliance with its obligations under the peace Accords.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 20 January, the Secretary-General noted that the FMLN had undertaken to resume the destruction of its arms and equipment on 22 January and to complete it within a week from that date.

The armed conflict between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government was brought formally to an end on 15 December and the destruction by the FMLN of its arms inventory was to have been completed on that date, except for certain categories of weapons which would take longer to destroy for technical reasons.

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The Security Council has agreed to send a new mission to Georgia to assess the overall political situation in Abkhazia and to dispatch a human rights fact-finding mission to Abkhazia to look into allegations of human

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rights violations by both sides. The human rights mission left for Tbilisi over the weekend.

The Council took that action on Friday evening, 29 January, in a statement read out by Council President Yoshio Hatano (Japan), in which the Council expressed its grave preoccupation over the deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia and called on all the parties to cease fighting immediately and to implement faithfully the agreement reached in Moscow last September.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had proposed to send a new mission to Georgia to discuss and provide advice on practical matters such as the establishment and monitoring of an immediate cease-fire, with particular emphasis on the border of Abkhazia between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

The Secretary-General had also proposed to send a mission to Abkhazia, which left for Tbilisi over the weekend, to assess the food supply situation and other emergency needs of refugees and other people affected by the economic and social crisis in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

According to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the inter-agency mission is led by the Chief of the Relief Coordination Branch of that Department and is composed of officials from a number of United Nations agencies. Living conditions have dramatically deteriorated in Georgia, where more than 50,000 people have already registered as displaced and thousands of others have fled to neighbouring countries as refugees, the Department said.

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In a separate development on Friday evening, the Security Council appealed for fuel and humanitarian assistance for Armenia and the Nakhichevan area of Azerbaijan.

In a statement read out to the press following consultations of the Council, its President Yoshio Hatano expressed concern over the devastating effect of the interruptions in the supply of goods and materials, in particular energy supplies to that region. These interruptions, combined with an unusually harsh winter, he said, had brought the economy and infrastructure of the region to near collapse and had created a real threat of starvation.

The Council urged all countries in a position to help to facilitate the provisions of fuel and humanitarian assistance and called on Governments in the region to allow humanitarian supplies to flow freely to Armenia and to the Nakhichevabn region of Azerbaijan.

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Madeleine Korbel Albright, the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, today presented her credentials to

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The new Permanent Representative was accompanied by Secretary of State Warren Cristopher, who subsequently met with the Secretary-General on a number of issues.

Ms. Albright has been President of the Center for National Policy since October 1989.

Born in Prague, she speaks English, Czech, French, Polish and Russian.

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The Ukraine has protested recent reports indicating that it supplied petroleum products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by way of the Danube, thereby violating United Nations sanctions against that Republic.

In a statement, dated 29 January, the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine said the shipments "were not made by vessels sailing under the Ukrainian flag", and that that in itself demonstrated, from a legal point of view, that there had been "no deviation whatsoever from the international standards established by the Security Council".

During the period from November 1992 to January 1993, it said, barges sailing under the Federal Republic's flag had been loaded with petroleum products from tankers on the Danube -- which were not Ukrainian -- and offloaded by companies and organizations of Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus and Turkey "with a view to their subsequent delivery to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Czech and Slovak Republics".

Accordingly, the statement said, accusations that Ukraine had "directly or indirectly" violated United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic were "unfounded".

The statement was transmitted to the President of the Security Council by Ukrainian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Victor H. Batiouk, in a letter dated 29 January.
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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has called for the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) for another 12-month period.

The call was made in a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, dated 29 January, in which the Vice President of the Republic, Radoje Kontic, said that in view of the fact that the "initial mandate" of UNPROFOR was soon to expire, his Government was calling for the continuation of the peace operation, as the conditions had still not been met for UNPROFOR to pull out from the territories under its protection. On the contrary, he said, Croatian aggression illustrated that UNPROFOR was even more needed today than a year

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ago, in order to ensure the protection of the Serbian people in Krajina. Safeguarding peace and security in those areas directly was helping the negotiating process in Geneva, the letter said.

UNPROFOR was established by Security Council resolution 743 (1992) on 21 February 1992 for an initial 12-month period. That mandate expires later this month.

Meanwhile, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, briefed the Secretary-General this afternoon at Headquarters on progress made at the peace talks in Geneva. Mr. Vance has proposed that the peace talks be moved to New York.
Document S/25193

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Turkey has expressed its concern and regret that the report of the United Nations Special Commission of Inquiry investigating the assassination of Hakija Turajlic, Deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was written "in a manner that played down the gross negligence and heavy responsibility of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)".

In a statement, dated 28 January, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey said the report appeared to "seek excuses for the Serbian action" and presented the assassination as the work of a single assailant. UNPROFOR was "responsible for the protection of civilians and has the authority to use its weapons to protect lives", he said. By remaining a mere spectator to the assassination of Mr. Turajlic, the Force had failed to exercise its authority and to carry out its duty.

The Security Council asked last month the Secretary-General to undertake a full investigation into the assassination of Mr. Turajlic who was under the protection of UNPROFOR at the time of the incident on 8 January.
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